

Top Secret 219

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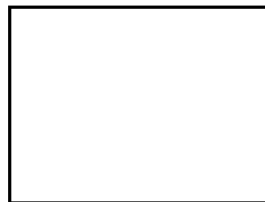
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 28 December 1977

CG NIDC 77/300C



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 28 December 1977

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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BRIEFS

SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA

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[REDACTED] Somalia alleges that Ethiopian aircraft conducted air strikes against the northern Somali cities of Hargeisa and Berbera yesterday, according to press reports. The Somalis claim to have shot down three aircraft.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Somali reports of Ethiopian air strikes have usually proven accurate. The Ethiopian air force has bombed Hargeisa twice in the last few months but had not previously attacked Berbera, which served as a base for Soviet naval facilities and housed several hundred Soviet personnel before the Soviets were expelled last month. The Ethiopians may no longer feel constrained from attacking Berbera, now that the Soviets have left.//

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[REDACTED] //Ethiopia is likely to step up its air attacks over northern Somalia now that many of its new Soviet-supplied MIG fighters are operational.// [REDACTED]

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INDIA

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[REDACTED] Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's attempts to stage a political comeback have created a split in the leadership of the opposition Congress Party that could result in the creation of a new pro-Gandhi Congress Party this weekend. Seven of the party's 20-member executive committee have already resigned from their posts and will hold a convention in New Delhi on Sunday at which Gandhi will be the main speaker. The convention was reportedly planned to capitalize on heightened press interest in India occasioned by President Carter's visit. [REDACTED]

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PORTUGAL

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[] Portugese President Ramalho Eanes apparently told political party leaders on Monday that he would "unofficially" ask Prime Minister Mario Soares to form a new government by 5 January.

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[] Soares, whose minority Socialist government fell earlier this month, will find the task difficult unless he makes additional concessions to the Center Democrats, who remain his only likely partner in a governing alliance. The President and the opposition Center Democrats and Social Democrats insist on a government with majority support in the legislature and rule out any government relying on Communist backing.

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[] As an "unofficial" rather than "official" designee, Soares will not have to produce a government program within 10 days, and may devote full time to reaching an agreement with the Center Democrats and filling his cabinet.

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